

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2005/000938.

Please add new claims 11-31 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (new): A method of setting up a connection in a communication environment controlled by a communication system between a first node allocated to a first contact and a second node allocated to a second contact, the method comprising:

providing a contact element within the first node for the first contact, the contact element having graphic and functional properties and graphically representing the second contact, an unambiguous identification and contact data being allocated to the contact element;


accessing the contact data using a program and setting up a first connection from the first node to the communication system;

checking within the communication system using the unambiguous identification whether the contact element is approved by the communication system for the setting-up of connections; and

setting up a second connection to the second node depending on a result of the checking.

Claim 12 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the connection in the communication environment is a quasi-permanent contact connection.

Claim 13 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the unambiguous identification includes an encrypted serial number.

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Claim 14 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the contact element includes a first part and a second part and wherein the graphic properties are defined in the first part and the functional properties are defined in the second part.

Claim 15 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the contact data includes details about at least one of services and functions for the first contact, and further comprising testing within the communication system the details contained in the contact data, and clearing the functions or services for use by the first contact depending on a result of the testing.

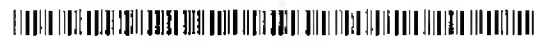
Claim 16 (new): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the details includes at least one of communication services and functions provided by the second contact.

Claim 17 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein at least the first contact is a user of the communication system, wherein a terminal covered by the first node is allocated to first contact, wherein the program is a user program is run by the user via the terminal in order to set up contact connections with other contacts via the communication system, and wherein the contact element is provided as a program object for the program.

Claim 18 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the program object is in the form of one of a file and a library.

Claim 19 (new): The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the second contact is a service provider, wherein the contact data includes details that are predetermined by the service provider, and wherein the second node includes a PC connected to the communication system and allocated to the service provider.

Claim 20 (new): The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the PC is a server.

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